

Message Text

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17

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4394

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

US MISSION UN NEW YORK PRIORITY 722

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, MY, ID

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEE BOAT CASES

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 4928 (B) KUALA LUMPUR 4930

1 THE EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEKEND, INCLUDING SINKING OF
CHOU-LONG AND OUR OWN EFFORTS TO INTERVIEW REFUGEES IN
TRENGGANU WHILE ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE MALAYSIANS
NOT TO SEND SHIP TO SEA, ILLUSTRATES AGAIN THE ABSOLUTE
NECESSITY OF GETTING NATIONS IN AREA TO ACCEPT PRINCIPLE
OF FIRST ASYLUM. QUITE CLEARLY, NO ONE IS GOING TO BE
FIRST TO ACT AND ALL MUST BE PRESSED TO MOVE TOGETHER.
WE PROPOSE TWO COURSES OF ACTION BEYOND OUR PREVIOUS
RECOMMENDATION: (A) A PRESS CAMPAIGN HIGH-LIGHTING
CALLOUSNESS OF POLICY OF GOVERNMENTS IN REGION PAR-

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TICULARLY AIMED AT MALAYSIA SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA.

WE ARE QUITE PREPARED TO TALK ON BACKGROUND TO NEWS-PAPERMEN HERE AS OPPORTUNITY ARISES BUT BELIEVE MOST EFFECTIVE BEGINNING OF SUCH A CAMPAIGN WOULD BE A BRIEFING OF VARIOUS REGIONAL AMERICAN NEWSPAPERMEN HEADQUARTERED IN BANGKOK. ONCE FOREIGN PRESS STARTS HITTING THIS THEME, POLITICAL LEADERS IN REGION WILL BEGIN TO SQUIRM. ALSO, IT WILL BE MOST DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO KEEP STORY OUT OF THEIR OWN PRESS, AS THEY HAVE BEEN DOING; AND, (B) A SECOND AND VITAL COMPONENT IS FOR UNSYG WALDHEIM TO MAKE A PUBLIC APPEAL TO ALL NATIONS ON THIS ISSUE AND TO SINGLE OUT, BY NAME, THE GOVERNMENTS OF MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA.

2. AT SAME TIME, WE MUST REALIZE THAT IF SEA GOVERNMENTS ARE TO ACCEPT PRINCIPLE OF FIRST ASYLUM, GIVEN THEIR INTERNAL RACIAL PROBLEMS, THERE MUST ALSO BE VISIBLE WORKING MECHANISM FOR EXPEDITIOUSLY MOVING REFUGEES ON. ALL OF THESE GOVERNMENTS ARE AFRAID THEY ARE GOING TO BE STUCK WITH UNWANTED FOREIGNERS. A VIGOROUS AND VISIBLE UNHCR-SPONSORED RESETTLEMENT EFFORT WILL BE REASSURING TO THEM.
UNDERHILL

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